# THE ELEVENTH DAY.

*10th March, 1924.*

The Assembly met at 11. 30. A. M. on Monday, the 10th March, 1924.

Rao Bahadur R. Viraraghava Aiyangar, Officer in charge of the Administration, presided.

**122. Some observations on education.**

*Mr. Narayanan Narayanan* (Member, Kottayam taluk) made the following suggestions in regard to primary education :—

1. It should be made compulsory.

2. It should be made more useful to the people.

3. A scale of pay of Rs. 15-25 should be given to the teachers of primary schools and an immediate increase of pay should be given to the headmaster.

4. The headmaster should be a trained teacher.

The Member next stated that the teachers of vernacular middle schools should also receive immediate increase of pay and that these teachers should be allowed a scale of Rs. 18- 50. All the teachers should be trained within a fixed period of 5 or 10 years. At present trained teachers got Re. 1 more in the shape of salary than the other teachers. That was not sufficient. The defect would be removed if the scale system suggested by him was adopted by the Government. The Member next expressed gratitude for the order passed in regard to the introduction of spinning in vernacular schools and requested that some definite kind of vocational education might also be imparted in primary schools.

The following further suggestions were also made by the Member.

1. Young men with equal qualifications should be given the same pay in both vernacular and English schools.

2. The maintenance charges of Government buildings were insufficient and several buildings required immediate attention. The budget allotment for the purpose should be increased.

3. Certain posts in the Registration, Devaswom and other suitable departments should be reserved for men who had passed higher examinations in the vernacular. He also said incidentally that what he stated in the course of his representations at the previous sessions of the Assembly was that those who had passed the Vernacular Higher Examination should be appointed in other branches of the public service also and not in higher grade vernacular schools alone.

4. Better stimulus should be given to technical education and the Technical Education Code should be so framed as not to affect the existing industrial schools prejudicially. He also stated that what he said at the previous session of the Assembly was that technical education should be imparted *in addition* to general education and not *in lieu* of it.

5. Religious and moral instruction should be introduced into all schools. It would be better to appoint a committee consisting of representatives of all religions and act on their recommendation in the matter

6. The scheme of medical inspection of school children should be extended to Malayalam Middle Schools also. He had also made that suggestion previously.

7. The Government should accept as their policy the introduction of the vernacular as the medium of instruction in all subjects except the English language in the High Schools up to Form VI and should immediately give effect to that policy up to Form III.



LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

8. Sanskrit Munshies should be appointed in all English and Vernacular Middle schools.

9. The allotments in the budget under books, furniture and appliances should not be equally divided among English schools, but should be distributed among such alone as were in real need of them.

10. The principles of co-operation should be taught in schools as a subject of study and Co-operative Societies should be started among school children.

11. The T. A. of Assistant Inspectors of English Schools should be increased.

12. The scheme of Provident Fund should be enforced in all private schools.

13. Greater sympathy should be shown towards private schools and the letter of the Education Code should not be rigorously applied to them.

14. Noon-day meal should be supplied to children of the depressed classes studying in schools. A portion of the amount now spent on charitable instiutions might be diverted for that purpose.

15. Fee concessions should be based on poverty. In the list of backward classes eligible for fee concessions, Paravas, who in some parts of Travancore were following the same occupation as Channars and Patiyans, should be included.

16. Night schools should be started in larger numbers and conducted satisfactorily, and reading rooms and travelling libraries should be established.

17. Arrangements should be made for the delivery of public lectures on such subjects as education, sanitation, public health, prevention, of contagious diseases, morality, etc.

18. An econmic survey of the State should be conducted.

19. The terms of admission into His Highness the Maha Raja's College for boys should be made more elastic and admission lists should be published sufficiently early. If convenient, certain classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's College should be transferred to the Training College.

20. The vernacular of the country should be given a more prominent place in the scheme of studies in the college and a professor of oriental languages should be appointed. Arrangements should be made for the publication of a large number of scientific books in the vernacular.

21. An authenticated Malayalam dictionary should be published.

22. A chair of Philosophy should be established in His Highness the Maha Raja's College.

23. An All-Kerala University should be established on the lines and at a centre to be specified by a commitee of experts composed of representatives from Travancore, Cochin and British Malabar, and after the Travancore Government consulted the British Government in the matter.

*President's reply.*— One of the important points referred to in your representation is that primary education should be made compulsory. In regard to this the Government have already ordered as follows:—

"The Government have already made primary education free and it is the recognised policy of Government to make it gradually universal."

It will thus be seen that the Government are trying their best to encourage primary education without compulsion. Government will pursue this policy steadily.

Your remarks *re.* increase of pay to teachers of primary schools and the headmasters of those schools are noted.

You said that the allotments made in the budget for the maintenance of school buildings were not sufficient. Your suggestions will be borne in mind when the next budget is prepared.

Regarding your request for extending the system of medical examination to Vernacular Middle Schools, the idea of the Government is to extend this scheme to Vernacular Schools after a time when funds become available and when it is found to be successful in English schools.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

With regard to the Provident Fund, it is working in some recognised English schools. But it has not been sufficiently availed of by the teachers of private schools even though we have granted more liberal concessions here than those prevailing in British India. Here, if the teachers pay one anna in the rupee, the Government also contribute one anna, though in the Madras Presidency the Government pay only half an anna. Even with this concession, the fund is not popular here. However, your remarks are noted.

Your observations regarding the creation of a Philosophy Chair in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, and the admisson of all Travancore students into that college are noted.

As regards the University, the University Committee is drafting its report. Until the report reaches the Government, no opinion can be expressed. Your remarks will be borne in mind when the recommendations of the committee are considered by the Government.

Your suggestions for travelling libraries and the delivery of public lectures on hygiene in rural areas are noted.

Your request that the rule in regard to fee concessions should be made clear so as to make it applicable to Paravas who are really Tandans will receive the attention of Government.

**123. Some Educational reforms.**

*Mr. N. Narayana Panikkar* (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) represented that primary education should be made compulsory. He briefly summarised the circumstances under which compulsion was brought about in western countries and gave certain facts and figures to show that the progress achieved in the matter of primary education in Travancore was not proportionate to the amount of money and labour spent upon it. If compulsion could not be introduced into the whole State, the experiment might be tried in any one taluk and primary education made compulsory in that taluk.

The next point dealt with by the Member was the need for increasing the pay of teachers in vernacular schools. Though the pay of the teachers of primary schools was revised twice recently, the prospects of those teachers were still far from adequate, and the Member suggested that they might be started on a pay of Rs. 20 with a scale up to Rs. 30 and with an increment of Rs. 2 once in every four years. The Member also said that there was some difference in the pay of the teachers employed in the Districts forming the old northern and southern ranges. It was also iniquitous that persons with equal qualifications should draw a lower pay when they entered the vernacular branch of the department. In regard to primary education the number of subjects should be reduced as also the hours of study. Four hours—2 in the morning from 8 to 10 and 2 from 3 to 5—ought to be sufficient for all practical purposes. Such of the final examinations as were under the control of the Travancore Government should be held in the cool month of Vrischikam. The examination papers should not be tough. As recommended by the Sadler Commission in regard to the Calcutta University, the medium of instruction in all classes up to Form VI should be the vernacular except in the case of the English language. Though there was a G. O. insisting on the use of the vernacular as the medium of instruction in all English schools up to Form III, that order was not being adhered to at present. The Inspector of English Schools, however, recently found that out and issued a circular giving effect to the G. O. What the Member requested was that the scheme should be extended to English High Schools, and brought into force up to Form VI, excepting, of course, the English language. The Member also prayed that Sanskrit Munshies be appointed in all Vernacular Middle and High Schools and English schools. The teaching of Sanskrit should be made compulsory in all classes above class IV. Permission should be accorded to students failing once in the English School Leaving Certificate Examination to appear as private candidates.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly